

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY SALT SUMMARY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE DELEGATIONS HAVE AGREED TO RECESS FOLLOWING THE PLENARY MEETING JUNE 12, WITH A RESUMPTION DATE NOT YET SET. SEMENOV'S COMMENTS (HE HAS RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THE US PROPOSALS) PROBABLY FORESHADOW THE POINTS BREZHNEV WILL PRESS WITH HE PRESIDENT: QUALITATIVE LIMITATIONS ACROSS THE BOARD, RESTRAINT AND FBS. OTHER- WISE, DURING THE PAST WEEK, THE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED TO FOLLOW WHAT HAS BECOME THEIR ROUTINE: THE SOVIET DELEGATION-- STILL AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS-- ALTERNATED ITS EFFORTS BETWEEN EXPLORING THE LS NEGOTIATING POSITION AND EXPOUNDING ON STOCK THEMES, WITH FBS RECEIVING A MAJOR SHARE OF THE ATTENTION. ON JUNE 6 TH, THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION MET FOR THE SECOND TIME. FND S' MMARY

2. SEMENOV COMMENTS - AT THE PLENARY SESSION ON FRIDAY, JUNE 1, SEMENOV ADDRESSED THE US NEGOTIATING POSITION ON NON- CENTRAL SYSTEMS IN A PARTICULARLY SYSTEMATIC FASHION,
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ISOLATING EACH ASPECT OF OUR POSITION FOR COMMENT. SEMENOV REJECTED THE US CONCEPTUAL BOUNDARY- LINE BETWEEN CENTRAL AND NON- CENTRAL SYSTEMS; MAINTAINING THAT ALL TYPES OF 'STRATEGIC' NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE DISPUTED THE UNITED STATES' ASSERTION THAT THE OPPOSED NON- CENTRAL SYSTEMS OF BOTH SIDES MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT; INSISTING THAT SOVIET SYSTEMS DEPLOYED IN RESPONSE TO " THIRD COUNTRY" THREATS ARE NOT ABLE TO STRIKE THE TERRITORY OF THE US AND, HENCE, ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF OUR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. THESE COMMENTS ARE THE CLOSEST SEMENOV HAS COME TO DISCUSSING THE US OFFER ON NON- CENTRAL SYSTEMS. HE STILL HAS NOT FORMALLY REJECTED OUR APPROACH, OF COURSE-- BUT HIS REMARKS WOULD INDICATE THE SOVIETS WILL BARGAIN HARD AND LEAVE LITTLE HOPE FOR A QUICK DISMISSAL OF THE DIFFICULT FBS/ NON- CENTRAL SYSTEMS ISSUE.

3. AT THE JUNE 5 MEETING, SEMENOV'S COMMENTS SUGGESTED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE CONSIDERS THE ABSENCE OF MEASURES RELATING TO SLBMS TO BE A WEIGHTY DEFICIENCY IN THE US PROPOSAL FOR A MIRV/ MRV PROVISIONAL FREEZE. SEMENOV WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT QUALITATIVE LIMITATIONS SHOULD BE APPLIED TO ALL STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, SINCE SUCH LIMITATIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR INFLUENCING STRATEGIC STABILITY. IT WAS POINTED OUT AFTER THIS MEETING BY SHCHUKIN THAT SEMENOV'S REMARKS REFLECTED " THE WORK THAT WAS GOING ON IN MOSCOW."

4. FINALLY, AT THE JUNE 8 MEETING, SEMENOV DELIVERED A FAIRLY " SHARP" STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF RESTRAINT-- CHARGING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS HASTENING TO DEVELOP CERTAIN WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO EMPLOY THEM AS " BARGAINING CHIPS" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WARNING THAT THIS ALLEGED TACTIC WILL PROVE UNPRODUCTIVE (AMBASSADOR JOHNSON REJOINED WITH A BRISK RECITATION OF ON- GOING SOVIET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS). THIS THEME MAY BE PRESSED AT THE SUMMIT.

5. SCC - AT THE SECOND SCC SESSION ON JUNE 6, THE UNITED STATES TABLED FORMAL PROPOSALS CONCERNING NOTIFICATION, REPLACEMENT, DESTRUCTION AND DISMANTLING PROCEDURES

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FOR WEAPONS REGULATED BY THE ABM TREATY AND THE INTERIM AGREEMENT. A JOINT WORKING GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED TO WORK OUT TECHNICAL DETAILS. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, THE SOVIET COMMISSIONER INDICATED THAT THE USSR WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO PUBLICATION OF THE SCC'S OPERATING REGULATIONS (SIGNED BY THE SCC COMMISSIONERS ON MAY 30). ACCORDINGLY, WE TRANSMITTED THE SCC PROTOCOL AND REGU-

LATIONS TO THE CONGRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL PROCEDURES, AND ROUTINELY RELEASED THEM TO THE PUBLIC IN A UNILATERAL US STATEMENT ON JUNE 7, FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

6. RECESS - IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO RECESS THE CURRENT SESSION FOLLOWING THE JUNE 12 MEETING. ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IN JULY FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT, THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ON THAT POINT. IT IS POSSIBLE THE USSR MAY FAVOR A LONGER BREAK, WITH A POSSIBLE RESUMPTION DATE IN LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. RUSH

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